

## GROWING PAIN

There's a numbing  
pain in here  
won't get out.  
Tried everything  
prayer to poison  
to kill it  
but it's stuck  
to my lining  
& won't go  
without dumping the whole  
walking talking package  
& I ain't properly  
prepared for that.

## XMAS TREE IN JULY

At Denton's we found  
skeleton of Christmas  
tree on beach. No needles  
charred trunk some  
barkless branches & stubs.  
We propped it up  
& decorated it with  
seaweed bits of  
colored plastic &  
a variety of cans  
for body & color  
then posed with  
it for snapshots.

## SCRAMBLE

She speaks to me  
across room hands  
fingers lips drawing  
seductive pictures  
but air conditioner  
blowing between us  
scrambles her words  
implanting false hopes.

## NAT SHINNER & THE NIGHT HAWKS

From bathroom they  
sound true-blue,  
damn near black. I  
mean they can play  
but out front couldn't  
be sure, heart kept  
rebounding in chest.  
Couldn't hear the poetry  
sound was cranked so high.

## LIGHT JUNKIE

Can't get enough light.  
Twist lamp switch  
to high. Flip on  
dining room light  
hall light. Change  
60 watt bulbs to  
100. Still eye  
of needle eludes me.  
Only in dreams do  
I find enough light  
to guide me  
in my uncertainty.

## ARCHER

After reading at Works  
gallery in San Jose Bill  
Yates said you're like  
an archer who shoots  
right for the chest.  
Each poem goes  
right into the chest.  
And he stuck  
me in my chest  
with his finger  
to teach me.

-- Phil Weidman

North Highlands CA